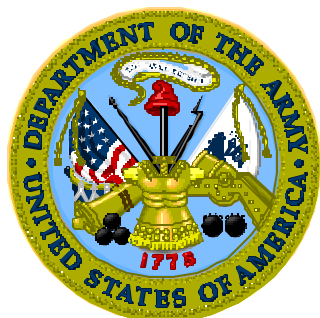




# The Army Industrial Hygiene Newsletter

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*This letter is published by the US Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine as a service to the Army Industrial Hygiene Program, Federal agencies, and industrial hygienists throughout the federal and private sector.*



## Upcoming Courses and Conferences

- ★ Intermediate Industrial Hygiene Topics Course, 18-29 Mar 01 (subject to change) Towson, MD ([chppm-www.trng/datepage.htm](http://chppm-www.trng/datepage.htm))
- ★ DOD Ergo WG Conf—Forging Ahead, 29-30 April 2002, Chantilly, VA ([chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/trng/forms/ergo.htm](http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/trng/forms/ergo.htm))

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## Pentagon Air Quality Found to be Safe

*Press release from USACHPPM, dated 19 September 2001*

Army occupational health specialists have found no potential health risks to date for DOD employees returning to the Pentagon after the Sept. 11 terrorist attack. Both structural collapse and fire resulted when a commercial jetliner hijacked by terrorists was flown at high speed into the Pentagon's west facade.

The U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine has sent a team of experts to check air quality and determine whether hazards exist that typically result from fires. Results of the air quality evaluation indicate no danger to Pentagon workers.

Using occupational health standards, the Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine's team, along with scientists from the other military services, evaluated potential health risks from hazards such as dust and ash; chemical residues from burning plastic, wood and other materials; or construction materials (such as lead) or asbestos that are commonly found in older

buildings such as the Pentagon. Test results are within occupational health standards established by OSHA. Additionally, results of air surveys for other common materials like carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and metals have all also been within health standards so far. The team also checked for possible radiation and found no hazards. The team continues to send air and surface wipe samples for laboratory analysis.

Persistent odors from the fire remain, but pose no health hazard. Possible exposure to lead residue or other compounds deposited in ash can be safely managed by carefully cleaning surfaces and floors with damp mops and cloths; washing hands before eating, drinking or smoking; and other common hygiene practices.

Symptoms such as mild irritation of the eyes, nose and throat are common in such environments; however anyone experiencing more significant or worrisome symptoms should leave the area at once and seek medical care. Some people, such as pregnant and nursing women, and those with asthma and other lung diseases, should seek advice from the Pentagon's DiLorenzo Tri-



care and Civilian Occupational Health Clinic before cleaning work areas. Again, air quality results indicate that it is safe to work in the Pentagon environment, even for those who may be more susceptible.

Pentagon employees with concerns about air quality in the Pentagon and their health should contact the Pentagon's DiLorenzo Tricare and Civilian Occupational Health Clinic (703) 692-8801. Additional details on the testing and related information are available at <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil>.

## Asbestos in Gypsum Wall Board From Mexico

This article responds to recent allegations concerning the use of Mexican manufactured asbestos containing gypsum wallboard at Fort Hood, Texas.

HQDA asbestos program proponents at the Army Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management (ACSIM) have researched this issue and concluded that the wallboard in question does not contain asbestos.

The Material Safety Data Sheet does not include asbestos-containing materials,

and lists the following materials included in this sheetrock: gypsum (85-90%), paper (cellulose fiber- 3-9%), asphalt wax emulsion (0-2%), starch (0.3-1%), glass fiber (0-1%), lignin sulfonates (0-1%), and boric acid (0-0.01%).

The ACSIM office stated the use of asbestos may have been alleged because sheetrock workers at Fort Hood are required to use respiratory protection. ACSIM believes Fort Hood implemented this requirement in response to dust gener-

ated through working with wallboard.

Army Regulation 200-1 (Environmental Protection and Enhancement) states, "Army policy...excludes asbestos from all procurements and uses where asbestos-free substitute materials exist."

Points of Contact for this issue are Victoria Belfit and Ralph Rogers DSN 584-3118, e-mail <victoria.belfit@apg.amedd.army.mil> and <ralph.rogers@apg.amedd.army.mil>.



## Equipment Tips

Whenever possible, do not allow personal air samplers equipped with NiCad batteries, to run until their battery charge is completely depleted. Placing the batteries in a deep discharge state can eventually cause sampler reliability problems and could confuse certain sam-

pler battery charging systems.

When downloading equipment sampling data files onto your computer, always close the previously downloaded data file first. Some programs will overwrite an open file with a new one without warning.

Need further information? Got an IH equipment question? Need an equipment recommendation? Give Linda Hindman a call at DSN 584-2106 or Commercial (410) 436-2106.

## Top 50 Potential Hazards For The Army Health Hazard Information Module 2000 Data Repository Report

Please see the chart on the following page for the HHIM 2000 data.

The count of hazard occurrences are representative of the data received and successfully uploaded to the HHIM Data Repository.

following the 2000 HHIM data call. The count is based on the following criteria: worksite.active="Y" and survey.current="Y". There were ## HHIM file submissions successfully uploaded to

the HHIM Data Repository. Ten HHIM file submissions were rejected for uploaded due to data file errors. Six industrial hygiene programs did not submit data during the 2000 HHIM data call.

## Top 50 Potential Hazards For The Army Health Hazard Information Module 2000 Data Repository Report (continued)

Rank	CAS Code	Hazard Name	Number of Hazard Occurrences
1	PONOISECO	NOISE, CONTINUOUS	31,927
2	POEYHAZA	EYE HAZARDS	25,676
3	POFOOTHAZ	FOOT HAZARDS	16,953
4	POLIFTING	HEAVY LIFTING	16,279
5	POFLYPROJ	FLYING PROJECTILES	13,193
6	COLUBEOIL	LUBE OIL/GREASES/HYDRAULIC FLUIDS	9,002
7	630-08-0	CARBON MONOXIDE	8,344
8	POVDTXXX	VIDEO DISPLAY TERMINAL	7,849
9	POSHARPOB	SHARP OBJECTS (CUTS)	7,081
10	CODIESELF	DIESEL FUEL	6,133
11	7439-92-1	LEAD, INORGANIC DUSTS & FUMES,AS PB	5,452
12	POELSHOCK	ELECTRIC SHOCK	5,149
13	POHOTOBJE	HOT OBJECTS (BURNS)	5,137
14	108-88-3	TOLUENE (TOLUOL)	4,682
15	CODUSTTOT	NUISANCE DUST, TOTAL	4,558
16	1330-20-7	XYLENE(O-,M-,P-ISOMERS)	4,393
17	8030-30-6	PETROLEUM SPTS/MINERAL SPTS/VMP NAPTHA	4,370
18	67-64-1	ACETONE	4,179
19	8052-41-3	STODDARD SOLVENT	4,101
20	8006-61-9	GASOLINE	3,685
21	7664-93-9	SULFURIC ACID	3,597
22	POFLAMHAZ	FLAMM/EXPLOS. HAZARD	3,540
23	67-63-0	ISOPROPYL ALCOHOL	3,204
24	POINTLIGH	INTENSE VISIBLE LIGHT	3,200
25	POHEATSTR	HEAT STRESS	2,969
26	8002-05-9	PETROLEUM DISTILLATE	2,958
27	107-21-1	ETHYLENE GLYCOL, VAPOR	2,883
28	10028-15-6	OZONE	2,795
29	COWELDFUM	WELDING FUMES(NOC)	2,698
30	1332-21-4	ASBESTOS (OTHER)	2,478
31	POUVRADXX	ULTRAVIOLET RADIATION	2,353
32	10102-44-0	NITROGEN DIOXIDE	2,334
33	CODUSTRES	NUISANCE DUST, RSP.	2,255
34	10024-97-2	NITROUS OXIDE	2,114
35	75-09-2	METHYLENE CHLORIDE	2,113
36	64-19-7	ACETIC ACID	2,110
37	12001-29-5	ASBESTOS (CHRYSTOTILE)	2,105
38	COGASENEX	GASOLINE EXHAUST PRODUCTS	2,097
39	67-56-1	METHYL ALCOHOL(METHANOL)	2,039
40	POFALLOBJ	FALLING OBJECTS	2,008
41	64-17-5	ETHYL ALCOHOL	1,937
42	78-93-3	METHYL ETHYL KETONE (MEK)	1,915
43	POCOLDSTR	COLD STRESS	1,795
44	50-00-0	FORMALDEHYDE	1,740
45	POWELDSPA	WELDING SPARKS	1,722
46	BOAIDSVIR	HTLV-AIDS VIRUS	1,711
47	POSTRESSX	STRESS (PHYSICAL AND MENTAL)	1,667
48	71-55-6	METHYL CHLOROFORM	1,595
49	PONOISEIM	NOISE, IMPULSE	1,587
50	BOHEPATIT	HEPATITIS (SERUM)	1,520

## FILNER INTRODUCES COMMUNITY-DRIVEN MILITARY COMPLIANCE LEGISLATION



Rep. Bob Filner (D-CA)

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*The Military Environmental Responsibility Act aims "to ensure the military plays by the same rules as any other entity," Filner said at a June 15 press conference.*

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Communities across the country have helped draft a bill that would fully waive the Defense Department's sovereign immunity and remove exemptions from federal and state environmental laws, requiring the same compliance as private parties. Rep. Bob Filner (D-CA) introduced the bill, H.R. 2154, June 13.

The Military Environmental Responsibility Act aims "to ensure the military plays by the same rules as any other entity," Filner said at a June 15 press conference. The problem, according to Filner, is that the military can avoid compliance with environmental laws through direct exemptions, sovereign immunity and the so-called unitary executive policy, which restricts EPA from pursuing judicial enforcement against DOD without Justice Department approval. The bill would address this by removing all military exemptions from federal environmental laws, waiving sovereign immunity, and clarifying regulators' ability to enforce environmental laws against DOD, according to Filner.

The bill, however, would retain exemptions allowing the military to override environmental requirements in times of emergency or war,

says Filner in a "Dear Colleague" letter.

The bill is available on the web site, InsideEPA.com. See page 2 for details.

The bill's introduction coincides with the Military Toxics Project's launch of its "Healthy Communities Campaign," which in part calls for some of the same measures the bill would set in law (see related story).

The Military Toxics Project's board adopted a campaign plan in March aimed at making the military fully accountable to environmental laws and regulations (Defense Environment Alert, March 27, p20). The project is a coalition of community groups living near contaminated military bases.

While Filner says his bill will be tough to pass, he says his strategy for gaining support among fellow members of Congress will focus on grassroots efforts. The bill is unique in that the idea came from communities affected by the military, rather than himself, he said June 15.

"The communities wrote the bill, by giving us feedback to ideas and drafts that were exchanged throughout the last five or six months." He continued, "So we expect

those communities to rally behind it, to lobby for it, to make sure their representatives know that this is there. And this is going to be a truly grassroots campaign because clearly when you're dealing with the military, the power within the parliamentary system is on their side. We're going to overcome that power with community organization and community demands."

Under the legislation, both substantive and procedural requirements in federal and analogous state environmental laws would apply to DOD and the Energy Department "in the same manner and to the same extent as any person subject to those requirements," the bill says. And "...the United States hereby expressly waives any immunity, and revokes any exemption, otherwise applicable to a Federal defense agency with respect to any such substantive or procedural requirement," it says.

The bill broadens 15 laws in this manner: Atomic Energy Act; Clean Air Act; Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, & Liability Act; Coastal Zone Management Act; Department of Energy Organization Act; Emergency Planning & Community Right-To-Know

Act; Endangered Species Act; Federal Water Pollution Control Act; Marine Mammal Protection Act; National Environmental Policy Act; Noise Control Act; Nuclear Waste Policy Act; Occupational Safety & Health Act; Oil Pollution Act; and Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief & Emergency Assistance Act. It says, at a minimum, these are the laws covered under the bill.

The bill extends to federal regulators the same administrative enforcement powers against defense agencies as they already have against private parties. And it allows citizen suits against defense agencies for violations of federal environmental laws and against federal regulators for failing to fulfill non-discretionary duties under these laws. Under the legislation, the military would be subject to regulatory standards, guidelines and prohibitions, all administrative orders and civil and administrative penalties, permit requirements, court-mandated injunctive relief or sanctions, and the payment of fees related to processing permits.

The bill also specifically subjects weapon system development and procurement

to compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

The bill is endorsed by grassroots groups such as the national organizations Military Toxics Project, Indigenous Environmental Network, Center for Marine Conservation, Center on Conscience and War, and numerous state- and local-level groups.

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## PICTURES FROM THE PENTAGON CHPPM Responds Immediately After Attacks

CHPPM members of the Specialized Medical Augmentee Response Team—Preventive Medicine (SMART-PM) provide immediate support to the Pentagon.





## PICTURES FROM THE PENTAGON *(continued)*

### Pentagon Crash Site

CHPPM will continue to provide support to the Pentagon as needed during the clean-up and rebuilding process.



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